

BRANDYWINE PRODUCTIONS

ALIEN III

by

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this story is not only to provide a plot structure, but to also fashion a rough blueprint for what should be a rethinking of the underlying assumptions governing the first two films. In ALIEN and ALIENS, the most unique notion was that of characterizations (particularly Ripley) that were psychologically real (within theatrical terms) juxtaposed against one of the most traditional Science Fiction concepts: the B.E.M. (Bug Eyed Monster). This proved highly effective when given the veneer of state-of-the-art filmmaking techniques in art design, effects, color, music, etc. etc. -- but that juxtaposition would now seem to be too thin a conceit to propel the series of films much farther. It is our belief that we cannot simply announce the imminent presence of the B.E.M. one more time, then have Ripley take out her Maxi-Blaster and go to work.

Good science fiction often masks vital contemporary concerns with the guise of futurity -- and what has been often remarked about both ALIEN and ALIENS is their contemporary ambiance. In both dramas, one of the primary intentions was to create characters that relate in mannerism and dialogue to the here and now. So, within that spirit, we believe the following issues and attitudes can be both amplified and dramatized in ALIEN III:

1. Modern Amero-Eurotech capitalism vs. reformed socialism.
2. The Arms Race.
3. The possibilities of nuclear or genetic disaster.
4. Cold war paranoia.
5. Terrorist activity.
6. Espionage and counter-espionage strategy.
7. Test ban tactics.
8. Recombinant D.N.A.
- 8a. The overflight of K.A.L. 007
9. Speculation on origins and the creation of Life in the Universe.
10. The positing of theoretical ideas surrounding an ultimate biological evil -- analogous to the 'what anti-matter is to matter' discussions that are currently going on in universities and industrial think-tanks.

A tall order -- however students of the first two films (there are many, and they write letters to the producers) will rush to point out that almost all of these concepts have, in latent form, been present in both ALIEN and ALIENS. So if some are skeptical about these rather high-flown concepts being useful in what is essentially a genre film, let us hasten to add that what we are describing is amplification within a melodramatic format -- it won't do any of us much good if ALIEN III doesn't honor the salient points of its predecessors.

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A NOTE ON ASSUMPTIONS: As we believe the time is now past for Ripley to lead humanity's cause against the Great Unknown -- we also assume that the B.E.M. itself is due for a major overhaul and re-design. No less insidious. No less pernicious. But different. The changes may well be largely within the sphere of Art Direction and certainly should be pointed in a Bio-tech direction -- but as to this end, our purpose within the story outline is to provide the right theoretical underpinning for changing the beast -- making it's evolution into something more mysterious and yet more formidable...

D.G.
W.H.

ALIEN III: THE BATTLE FOR GATEWAY

Sometime in the future...

DEEP SPACE

The Sulaco moves slowly through the void. Within the giant craft, Ripley, young Newt, Corporal Hicks, and the android Bishop rest in hypersleep. Their battle on Archeron over, they drift in numb unconsciousness toward "the border" -- the vast territory between the edge of our galaxy and the yawning distance of deep space. An area where rival outposts of Weyland Yutani and the United Progressive Peoples (U.P.P.) exist in uneasy proximity.

ON THE CUSP OF THE GALAXY

The high-tech Weyland Yutani's space station Gateway (gateway to deep space) was created by efforts of the dominant multi-national conglomerate from what is currently Western Europe, Japan and the United States. At this point in human evolution, on both Earth and in the space colonies, scientific doctrine has become almost a religion -- and scientists its prophets. The concept of Pure Science has evolved to the point that it is totemic to a population of civilian, military and business technocrats...

THE WEYLAND YUTANI SPACE STATION - GATEWAY

The huge Gateway compound is governed by the civilian faction -- but its purpose is to serve the larger needs of the scientific-

business hierarchy. And one of the larger needs of any society is security -- the Military is well represented on the man-made island in space....The citizens on Gateway feel that their outpost is the prototype for future cities on Earth -- all classes and all races participating harmoniously within an "enlightened capitalism." But there is a sense of isolation... Due to the vast distances involved (Gateway is too far out for direct contact to Earth) radio signals take two weeks to arrive and two weeks back. A lag of time of a month for all communication...

RODINA

The Union of Progressive Peoples inhabits the nearby space station called Rodina, which is similar in both size and function to Gateway...On Earth and in space, the U.P.P. is a tightly structured socialistic society; Inflexible bureaucratic procedures flourish within it's nearly monolithic hierarchical pyramid -- the military on equal footing with civilians...An uneasy truce exists between Weyland-Yutani and the U.P.P. A truce guaranteed by both sides' capacity for mutual destruction.

BORDER TERRITORY - BETWEEN DEEP SPACE & THE MILKY WAY GALAXY

Due to a calculating error on the ship's homing device, the Sulaco violates a tip of Rodina's airspace. Because of this overflight, the Sulaco is intercepted by a U.P.P. military craft. A troop of Armed Commandos board the ship and search out the

hypersleep chambers. They move past the domed capsules containing Ripley, Newt and Hicks and stop at Bishop. A milky steam clouds his chamber...The Lead Commando pries it open and recoils in shock. On the lower half of Bishop's body is an Alien egg... ready to hatch. It bursts, propelling its slimy mass onto the Commando's helmet. The writhing form takes shape into an Alien Face-Hugger (T.F.H.)*. A hissing sound, due to the acid, as the metal begins to burn away -- the Alien form now firmly enclasping the Lead Commando's head -- he dies in screaming agony, blinded, his head crushed...After killing the Face-Hugger, the U.P.P. Commandos blow their dead comrade out into space, grab what's left of Bishop, then quickly evacuate as the Alien's acid blood sizzles a hole into the floor of the Sulaco. The damaged spacecraft begins violent gyrations, struggling to adjust to the change in its air pressure...

A.W.R. - GATEWAY

An alarm sounds in the Advance Warning Room of the Weyland Yutani MiliSci Complex as the Sulaco crosses into friendly territory. The Technician on duty, Twombly, leaps into action. His computer screen brings up the erratic course of the Sulaco -- he codes out the request for a military rescue ship.

The Rescue Unit blasts off into space...

*see Glossary

NEAR THE SULACO

The on-board computer blinks "Extreme Caution" as the Weyland Yutani rescue ship draws close to the big military transport... The Rescue Team cautiously moves on board... The Leader holds a heat detector...Watching the meter respond to signals of life on board, he leads the crew toward the hypersleep chamber, presses the access button. As the door slides open and the men leap back -- The three hypersleep capsules are covered with writhing Alien creatures, waiting to merge with their sleeping prey. The soldiers blast the Traditional Alien Big-Boy forms (T.B.B.'s) with fire weapons, torching them into a smoking mass. Ripley, Newt and Hicks are jarred awake to a horrifying vision. Inside the domed glass, Ripley's face contorts into a silent scream...Nightmare without end.

The rescue unit rushes the three encapsuled bodies onto their craft -- and then head back to Gateway...Most of them figure they're damn lucky to be alive.

ON GATEWAY

Ripley, Hicks and Newt are quarantined in MedLab. Ripley has lapsed into a coma. Newt is quiet and withdrawn. Hicks is alert, ready to file his report of their journey to Archeron.

"Where's Bishop?" Hicks asks.

No one answers.

MED-LAB

When Hicks tells Newt that that she can return to Earth to live with her grandparents, the little girl balks and refuses to leave Ripley's bedside. Newt vows to stay there until her friend awakens. Hicks assures her that as soon as that happens, she is going back to Earth, too. It's a tearful farewell as Newt prints out an address and draws a map to her new home far away across the galaxy. She tacks it on the wall so it will be the first thing Ripley sees when she opens her eyes.

LANDING DOCK

Meanwhile, the damaged Sulaco is being examined by teams of technicians who discover a culture of live Alien spores in the hypersleep chamber. As far as Bishop is concerned, there is speculation that the android could have been completely melted down by the Alien creature's acid...Hicks doesn't believe that. Not for a minute.

RODINA

Within a U.P.P. lab facility, what's left of Bishop is now mounted on a slab wired to hundreds of computer outlets... Information is reamed out of him at high speed, printouts of measurements, graphs, equations, formulas -- The U.P.P. scientists decide to recreate the rest of Bishop's body (in case they are accused of barbarism, as well as kidnap) and, more importantly, to develop a formula for the manufacture of Alien clones from any of the live spores they have isolated...

BACK ON GATEWAY

A meeting of the full Directorate...plus Hicks. The leaders, both scientific and military, have reason for deep concern. All technical information on the Alien and the detailed happenings on Archeron are locked up within Bishop -- he is in essence a walking computer -- what is desperately needed by the MiliSci community is hard scientific information as to the nature of the Alien life form...Hicks can't supply that -- he was an eye witness, but he's a grunt -- not a trained scientific observer.

COMMUNICATION HEADQUARTERS - GATEWAY

The mystery of the missing android is solved when the U.P.P. contacts Gateway CentSci with the announcement that they are holding Bishop and conducting an investigation on the airspace violation...After an initial reaction of outrage, Weyland Yutani Military Intelligence speculates that the U.P.P. is obviously deprogramming Bishop to get information about the Alien. Further speculation that the U.P.P. may be developing the species -- in direct contradiction of the Biological Warfare section within the Scientific Arms Research Treaty of some twenty years standing.

The Weyland Yutani MiliSci Directorate calls in Hicks for another chat. They have pressing questions: Does Bishop have enough information to recreate the Alien? And more to the point, could a re-programmed Alien be used as a military weapon?

"No telling what the damn thing can do," Hicks replies.

"Whatever we tried, it was always one step ahead of us." As the meeting proceeds, the Military discusses the possibility of developing their own Alien as a potential weapon. After all, if U.P.P. has it, as well as a head start in research and development -- defense strategy then mandates that they follow suit...

Hicks objects to their plan. What if they develop the Alien and it cannot be controlled? Hicks fears are unheeded. Not only is the Military community hellbent on R. & D.; so is the scientific. Early printouts from their master computers have indicated a unique genetic structure within the Alien culture. With a little gene-splicing this strain might be of incredible benefit to man (e.g., if it could be programmed to only kill cancer cells, then injected into the body -- hey, presto we might have the cure for...) The Scientific community stands with the Military -- the laboratory experiments must continue -- under proper supervision of course, not like the shoddy techniques and conditions often practiced by the U.P.P.

It is decided to nourish the spores within the lab in a "neutral" atmosphere and then run computer breakdowns on the implications of the developing genetic information. The spores will then be terminated before they reach embryonic or adult forms. "No danger," say the Lab Technicians, "we can handle it." Hicks has heard that before.

He is the only voice in opposition.

Reason is on the other side.

So is authority.

The Alien will be developed.

But the question of Bishop...

First they request a meeting with the U.P.P. Representative on Gateway and confront him about possible violations of the B.W. section in the S.A.R. Treaty...The U.P.P. Representative denies the charge, claiming that it was Weyland Yutani that violated the Treaty by crossing into U.P.P. air space with the Alien cultures as they homed the Sulaco. Clearly a hostile act...However, as a gesture toward mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence, they agree to return Bishop.

BISHOP RETURNS - VIA RODINA SPACE CRUISER

After disembarking, Bishop meets the MiliSci Directorate and agrees to a complete physical and chemical analysis. No irregularities are found. Pure and simple Android. But he voices a strong opinion -- the Alien spores must be eradicated at once and at any cost. The test program Weyland Yutani is embarking upon must be aborted -- The nature of the beast is beyond control. It is a pure anti-life biological mechanism. If it gets to Earth...?

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

The MiliSci leaders meet in secret -- they now suspect Bishop has been re-programmed by the U.P.P. and is functioning as an espionage agent. His statements are undoubtedly meant to mislead them. Even if that assumption isn't true, are macro-policy decisions going to be dictated by a burnt-out droid? After a limited debate, the answer to that question is a resounding "no." It's decided that it is more important then ever to proceed with their experimental program..

THE LAB TECHNICIANS - GATEWAY

Work continues on developing the Alien spores -- which have now begun to multiply into small eggs. Rapidly. One stasis tube becomes unstable, goes out of control. A Technician is attacked and suffocated by a new model Face-Hugger (N.M.F.H.) -- The Face-Hugger is killed but Gateway has had a full-blown laboratory disaster...

BISHOP AND HICKS

Both have been assigned menial jobs and kept out of the way.

Others, however, have been willing to listen to them on the subject of the Alien -- Especially Bishop who articulates an opinion of literally cosmic proportion --

He is convinced the Alien threatens all mankind...

All biological life within the universe.

He believes it to be purely evil, probably capable of adapting to whatever circumstances it finds itself in.

Potentially it is the ultimate survivor in a Darwinian universe.

Every possible step must be taken to destroy the Alien.

Bishop and Hicks decide to sabotage the Alien experiments before they go any further. This means breaking into the lab or gaining access by subterfuge. But one thought troubles Bishop...

He is programmed to protect humans, so he is following his duty -- however, he cannot be sure that he hasn't been re-programmed by the U.P.P. -- and that he is not functioning as an enemy agent. He tells Hicks there is no way that he could know, since all his knowledge is programmed in the first place and, as an android, he has no sense memory as to the origins of the information layered within his psyche.

LAB

Bishop and Hicks break in...

They inject the Alien cultures with a solution made of alkaloids (to neutralize the acid) and liquid nitrogen.

They are discovered and caught, but not before they have destroyed nearly all the cultures. Their allies cannot protect them from the wrath of the MiliSci leaders. They are thrown in detention...

THINK TANK - GATEWAY

A debate ensues. What should be done with the remaining spores? Has the entire experiment been compromised? What should be done with Bishop and Hicks? Tried for treason? How does one bring legal action against an android? The Chief Military Officer, a woman who has consistently argued that, at whatever cost, the Alien research must continue, begins to stammer at the end of a long harangue...Suddenly HER HEAD EXPLODES and a new Alien form emerges (N.M.B.B.), shredding her body like a high speed molting snake, then killing a nearby technician. Security Guards kill the beast with a flame thrower.

LABORATORY

The scientists investigate how the Chief Mili-Sci Officer was infected. The computers come up with startling news -- the Alien form has the ability to transfer itself via electronic fields (e.g., from its own biological electronic field it can transfer energy currents to a human via his or her own electronic fields of energy, and then re-constitute its molecular structure from within the host. In other words, via continuous proximity the Alien can ride the aura of the host into its body and then reproduce itself. A killing machine that's virtually unkillable. The computer speculates that $x \pm ?$ is the amount of time needed for transfer. Logs are checked -- who has been around the spores for the proper amount of time? The Chief Military Officer had, for one. The other -- Lab Technician Twombly.

Twombly is missing.

Even more disturbing -- anyone now might have an Alien within them.

No way to know, no way to test...

HICKS AND BISHOP

They are let out of confinement, and are now both the resident experts on Alien forms...Since the demise of the Chief Military Officer, their positions have now been nearly completely vindicated among the scientific community.

THE HUNT FOR TWOMBLY

As Hicks leads a party on Gateway to find Twombly -- an attempt is made to notify Rodina of the danger of the mutant which could develop in their compound, too.

There's no reply.

All communication has ceased.

DEPARTURE DOCKS

Weyland Yutani sends a battle cruiser out to investigate the ominous silence on Rodina.

HICKS

Leaves his search party for a moment and goes into the Med-Lab. In violation of all quarantine procedures, he takes the still

recumbent Ripley, puts her into a hypersleep chamber within a lifeboat -- programs it for Earth, puts it on automatic and a minute later it blasts off. Bishop questions this act as they both watch the lifeboat sailing away. Hicks says that he is expecting the worst in the upcoming struggle and that Ripley's only chance of survival might be due to his action. He doesn't think that she's infected, and there is no other living creature on the lifeboat to serve as host to the Alien -- he's willing to take the chance, besides he owes his life to Ripley...And he's the kind of guy who pays his debts.

RODINA

The U.P.P. scientists have succeeded in developing a new form of the Alien (N.M.B.B.2).

Big. Vicious.

Able to reproduce itself faster.

In fewer stages.

It has instantly gone out of control...

The Aliens (N.M.B.B.2's) rip through the resident human population.

In short order Rodina is reduced to chaos -- the battle seems hopeless -- This breed of Alien is fireproof...

Fire merely fuels it.

COMMUNICATION LAB - GATEWAY

Reports of the struggle on Rodina are intercepted in the Comm Lab.

A desperate plea for help from a small remaining group of U.P.P. scientists.

A moment later, Rodina is blown to dust via one of their own space cruisers; the U.P.P. has nuked their own space station...

THE U.P.P. CRUISER

Lying off Rodina's flaming remains, circles the space wreckage, then redundantly notifies Weyland Yutani of their action.

And urgently pleads for a halt to Weyland Yutani's Alien experiments...

Thanks a lot.

A day late and a dollar short.

THE HUNT FOR TWOMBLY - CONTINUED

Meanwhile, after an extensive search through the bowels of Gateway, Hicks and the rest of his search party discover Twombly's shed skin -- they trace the beast (N.M.B.B.) to its lair. When Hicks kills it, after finding it setting up cocoons near the air-conditioning units -- ten more Aliens burst out of the bodies of the Soldiers on the hunt. Then Ten more appear out of the overhead air ducts -- and Ten more...Hicks, Bishop and the others are forced to fight a retreating action...

THE BATTLE CRUISER FROM GATEWAY

Arrives at the former location of Rodina...They A-bomb a few remaining support satellites and call back to Weyland Yutani Comm Lab on Gateway, attempting to report in...

No reply.

They begin the return trip of four hours at high speed.

THE BATTLE FOR GATEWAY

Hicks has taken command of the remaining population...Ninety-percent of Gateway has either been infected or killed. The cocoons now appear everywhere...In the ensuing fire fights being waged throughout the space station, one Queen is killed -- Hicks is sure there are others...He leads his troops back to the food storage lockers, blowing up sections of Gateway as he continues to beat a strategic retreat.

The problem is that no space craft or landing docks exist on this section -- no evacuation is possible. Their only hope is the Battle Cruiser -- which they cannot communicate with because the New Model Aliens (N.M.B.B.'s) have over-run all the Communication Centers.

They can only retreat.

Play for time.

And hope for rescue.

THE BATTLE CRUISER

Returns from Rodina, finding most of Gateway a smoldering ruin. The Commander sends a Lifeboat to the only remaining section of the space station after a furious debate with his/her junior officers as to whether or not they should simply nuke the remaining structure. Loyalty to possible human survivors? Or take no chances on any Alien life form surviving? The fate of Earth could hang on the decision...

FOOD STORAGE CENTER

Hicks, Bishop and two others are all that remain of Gateway's human population. They see the Lifeboat approaching as the Alien beasts circle for the kill. Ammo is low, morale is worse -- Things look very bad indeed...A desperate measure. Hicks orders the two grunts, along with Bishop, to get into pressure suits and powerpack themselves into space -- where free floating they await the Lifeboat. Hicks goes out into space last, blasting Aliens as he backs out into the vacuum...He floats after the others; for a moment all seems well...

Then the unexpected.

Several Alien beasts go cartwheeling right out into space after them (N.M.B.B.'s).

The lack of atmosphere proves no handicap. The Aliens kill two of the humans, then seems about to get Bishop...as the Lifeboat arrives Hicks destroys the creatures by manually turning the

craft so that it's engine wash incinerates the beasts -- while in the background the Battle Cruiser nukes the remaining parts of Gateway...

INSIDE THE BATTLE CRUISER - NOW EARTHBOUND

Hicks, Bishop and the crew -- long looks at one another before going into hypersleep...

Bishop has now attained guru status.

BISHOP

The ultimate biological evil must be traced back to its point of origin in the Universe and destroyed... Otherwise all biological existence will be doomed.

The crew draws the lids of the hypersleep chambers over them as...

THE VOID

The Battle Cruiser powers by and becomes a small dot on the horizon of eternity.

Next:

ALIEN IV
INTO THE UNKNOWN

D.G.
W.H.
March 1987

B.E.M. GLOSSARY

Those not familiar with the terminology used to describe the monsters in ALIEN and ALIENS in all their evolutionary stages may find this useful.

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|---|
| FACE-HUGGER | -- | Stage one of Alien form, the shape it has as it emerges from the egg. |
| CHEST BURSTER | -- | Phase Two, after it has lived within the host, it breaks out, to quickly become: |
| BIG-BOY | -- | The Full Size Ripper, it stands erect, features double-hinging jaws, whiplash tail. |
| THE QUEEN
aka MOM | -- | The egg layer, center of the hive, of stupendous proportion -- possessor of an intelligence beyond the instinctive. |

Each of these stages are to be reproduced in ALIEN III, but after a certain point in the story, in new forms. New environments mean new models of the beast, as it infinitely adapts to meet its genetic need to destroy life.

Each monster within these pages has a code designation to indicate its form:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| T.F.H. | = | Traditional Face-Hugger |
| N.M.F.H. | = | New Model Face-Hugger |
| N.M.F.H.2 | = | New Model Face-Hugger in a yet newer manifestation. |

These code designations will apply to Chest-Bursters (C.B.'s), Big-Boys (B.B.'s) and Queens (Q.'s) as well, so that as an example, the second new model Big-Boy on Rodina becomes (N.M.B.B.2).